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CHICAGO BEAR REPORT

Game Preview Inside



BEARS at BUCS

Vol. 25 No. 17

September 9, 2000

**Big plays,
big mistake
costly in
opening loss**

**McNown's
gutsy
effort
wasted**

**Robinson
remains
Bears'
go-to guy**

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The Bears hope to show that they've closed the gap on the division champion Bucs Sunday in Tampa

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Extra Points

Mr. Irrelevant is making a new name for himself

Michael Green proved that last is not always least in the NFL. The 254th and final player taken in the draft earned a spot on the Bears' 53-man roster.

"I just had faith in God that I was going to be here," said Green, a two-year starter at Northwestern (La.) State. "It was a struggle through training camp to stay healthy, but I survived through the hard work and heat."

Green, who was given a trip to Disneyland and a parade in his honor for being "Mr. Irrelevant," doubled as a track star in college. With the Bears, he will compete at cornerback while also contributing on special teams.

"Mike's a good football player," said Bears coach Dick Jauron. "He's got a great attitude. He doesn't say a whole lot. He's not a very talkative guy, but he's a very tough guy. You can see that when he covers kicks or really when he does anything. He's got speed. There's a lot of upside to his play-making ability."

"He looks like he enjoys playing the game, whether it's covering a kick or playing defense. We're happy to have him. When we picked him, we thought he had the ability to play, and he's shown it."

Green is the second straight "Mr. Irrelevant" taken by the Bears. The last pick of the 1999 draft, fullback Jim Finn, was cut by Chicago but is now the starting fullback for the defending AFC East champion Indianapolis Colts.



By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Payton place

The memory of Bears legend Walter Payton was honored Aug. 29 when part of McFetridge Drive outside of Soldier Field was renamed Walter Payton Place. The honorary designation was voted by the Chicago City Council.

Payton, who never stopped fighting for the extra yard, died last Nov. 1 of bile duct cancer at the age of 45. His memory should serve as an inspiration to today's Bears players and fans as well.

"You can't set limits for yourself," Payton once said. "You have to constantly push yourself. No matter what you do for a living, you know when you're doing your best or you're just mailing it in. When I'm playing football, I want to leave it all out there on the field like it's the last game of my life."

Earlier this summer, the famous Arlington Heights hill where Payton trained was named in his honor. "Walter ran this hill to make himself a better football player," said his wife, Connie Payton. "He was not afraid of hard work. I hope my son (Jarrett) has learned that from his father. ... We thank everyone for their prayers."

Catching on

Five players cut by the Bears last week were signed by other NFL clubs: DT Russell Davis (Cardinals), CB Terry Cousin (Falcons), RB Frank Murphy (Buccaneers practice squad), T Dan Palmer (Dolphins practice squad) and RB Marlon Jackson (Jets practice squad). PK Jaret Holmes remains unsigned.

Looking for a home

The Bears will gauge fan reaction before deciding where to play during the season when Soldier Field is under renovation, but Comiskey Park and Wrigley Field are not possibilities, team president Ted Phillips told the Chicago Sun-Times.

"Ultimately, it's a one-year solution," Phillips said. "There's not going to be a perfect solution for one season. But if get to that point, that's a good problem to have."

A few weeks ago it was reported that the Bears and City Hall have reached an "understanding" but not an agreement on an elaborate Soldier Field renovation plan. Soldier Field would be gutted and rebuilt, saving only its historic colonnades and its south wall.

The most likely temporary homes are Notre Dame Stadium, Memorial Stadium in Champaign and Northwestern's Ryan Field.

Bears fans will likely have to purchase personal seat licenses to help finance the renovation plan. "It'll be a fair deal for everybody," Phillips said. "We know we're going to have to put up a lot of private funds and we're going to make it work ... because we want to be in Chicago and we want to be on the lakefront."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

First NFL game's a charm



Mike Brown

Facing the dynamic duo of Randy Moss and Cris Carter in your first NFL game might cause some defensive backs to have nightmares. But for Bears rookie free safety Mike Brown, the days leading up to the regular-season opener were pure fantasy. "It's been a dream of mine since I was a little boy to play in the NFL and to have it come true, I'm in heaven," Brown said last week.

It's a sentiment shared by every player in the NFL. Their first game is special regardless of the outcome. Clyde Simmons, a 15-year NFL veteran, debuted in 1986 for the Philadelphia Eagles and made his first tackle on a fellow named Walter Payton. Bobby Engram played in a high-profile program at Penn State, but it was nothing compared to his nationally-televised debut with the Bears in a 22-6 win over the defending Super Bowl champions in 1996.

"It was exciting. It was my first real game against the Dallas Cowboys on Monday night. I think that says it all right there," Engram said. "I remember being excited and having butterflies. You've got to be somewhat nervous. If you're not nervous, I don't think you're ready to play."

Glyn Milburn made a splash in his first NFL game as a Denver Broncos running back against the New York Jets in the Meadowlands in 1993. He accounted for 148 all-purpose yards including a career-long 50-yard reception, a 36-yard punt return and a 25-yard touchdown catch from a guy named John Elway.

"He kind of liked me after that," Milburn said. "He took me out to dinner that week."

Milburn scored by beating future Hall of Fame safety Ronnie Lott, a boyhood idol of Milburn's.

"I was a big 49er fan growing up and he was one of my favorite players," Milburn said. "That was probably my biggest memory, playing against him and getting to fake him out."

Shawn Wooden's first NFL game came as a member of the Miami Dolphins against the New England Patriots. Wooden wasn't intimidated after spending the entire summer lined up across from future Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Marino.

"I had Dan Marino all training camp. That was enough awe right there," Wooden said. "Coming to the first practice, that was big-time. I was fortunate enough to go against Dan every day for the first couple of weeks. I didn't know whether to try to intercept the ball or ask for his autograph. You're definitely star struck. You go out there and you're just like a little kid all over again."

Crowton will make BYU wait

Gary Crowton could become the next head coach at Brigham Young University, but the Bears' offensive coordinator won't even consider the position until after the NFL season.

Crowton, a Provo, Utah, native, is expected to be among those at the top of the school's wish list to replace LaVell Edwards, who announced his retirement after 29 years effective at the end of the season.

"If anybody called me, I wouldn't talk to them," Crowton told the Chicago Sun-Times, "because that's not fair to me and my preparation and it's not fair to the job I'm at right now."

Crowton and BYU athletic director Val Hale have been friends since they went to high

school together in Utah. At a golf outing in June, Hale told Crowton that Edwards might be retiring.

"I told him, 'Don't talk to me until the season's over. I don't even want to talk about it,'" Crowton said. "And he said, 'Fair enough.'"

"I just want to go through the season and concentrate on the Bears and not worry about that. If they move on, so be it. If they decide they want me to come in after the (Bears) season, maybe I'll think about."

"I had a lot of these college offers last year, but I wasn't interested. And I'm not sure where I'm at on this one. I don't know if I'm interested or not."

During the offseason, Crowton attracted interest from three col-

lege programs and also interviewed for the vacant head-coaching job with the New England Patriots.

Crowton was head coach at Louisiana Tech for three seasons prior to joining the Bears. The BYU job would allow him to plant roots with his wife and their six children after a nomadic existence. Crowton's six children have been born in five different states.

In an online poll by the Deseret News, Crowton was running second (24 percent) behind Steve Young (34 percent) but ahead of Mike Holmgren (21 percent). Crowton began his coaching career in 1982 at BYU as a student assistant serving under quarterbacks coach Holmgren.

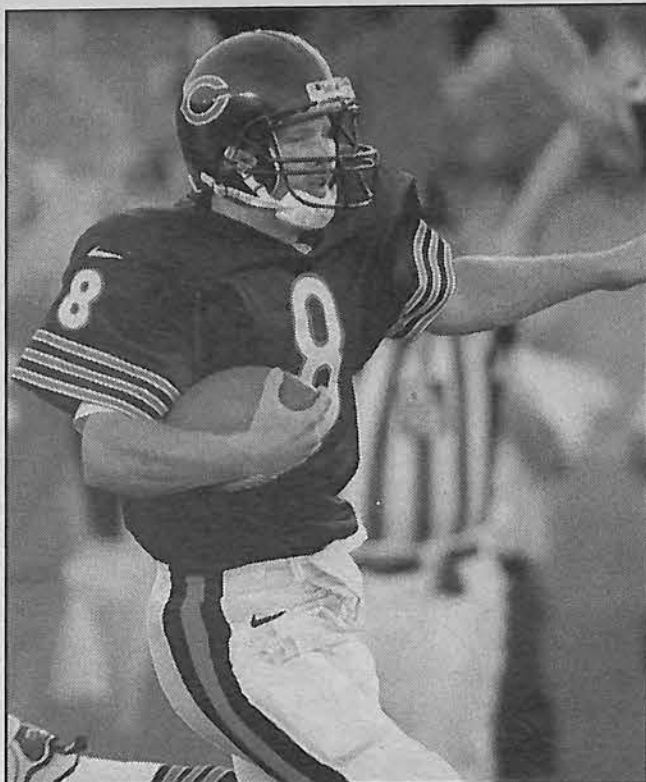
— Larry Mayer

THEY SAID IT



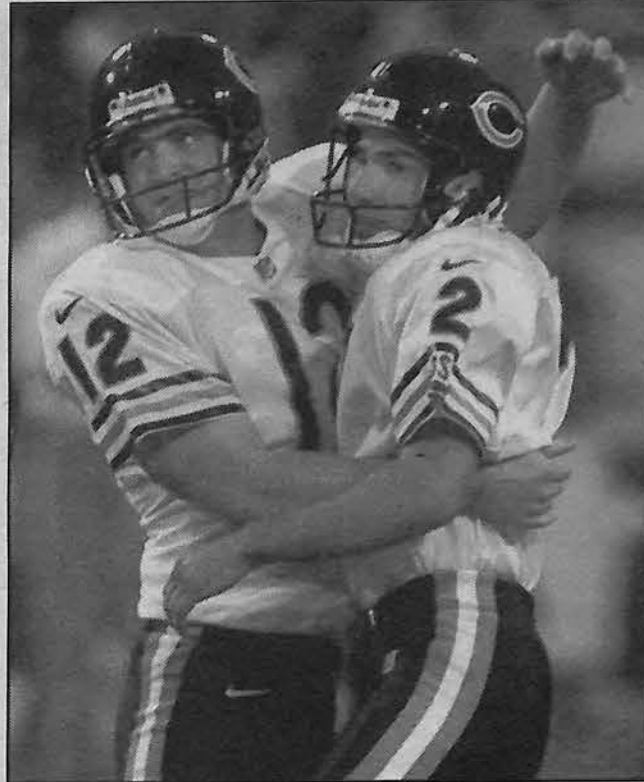
"If he's the new wave of quarterback, I'm looking forward to retirement."

Bears defensive coordinator Greg Blache on Vikings' 6-5, 266-pound QB Daunte Culpepper



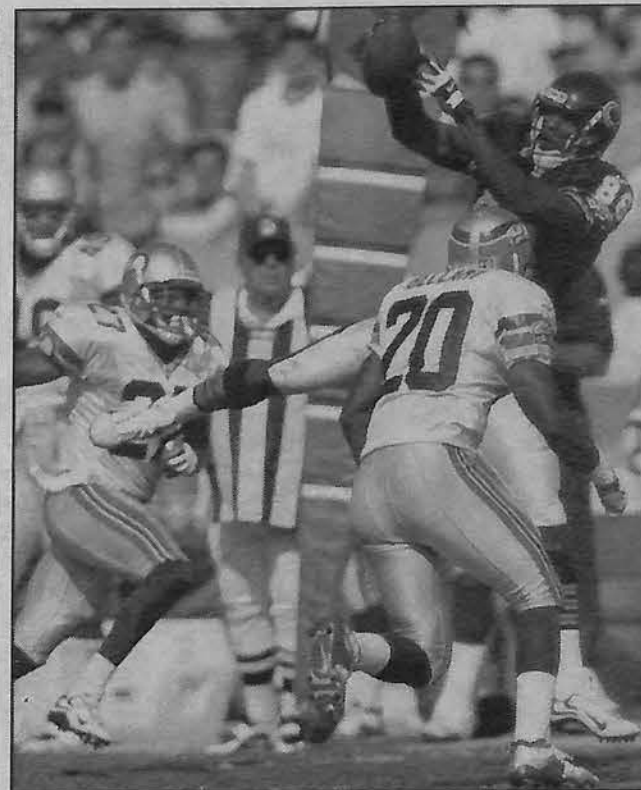
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BUCS STOP HERE: Cade McNown and the Bears look to end a five-game skid against the Bucs in Tampa.



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A DOWNER: Paul Edinger (2) was perfect in his debut, but the Bears weren't in a 30-27 loss at Minnesota.



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SOMETHING SPECIAL: Wide receiver Marcus Robinson remains the go-to guy on the Bears' offense.



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Cover photo by Steve Woltmann

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NEWS

14-17 **Disheartening defeat:** The Bears blew a 20-9 third quarter lead and wasted a terrific effort by quarterback Cade McNown in losing the season opener 30-27 to the Vikings.

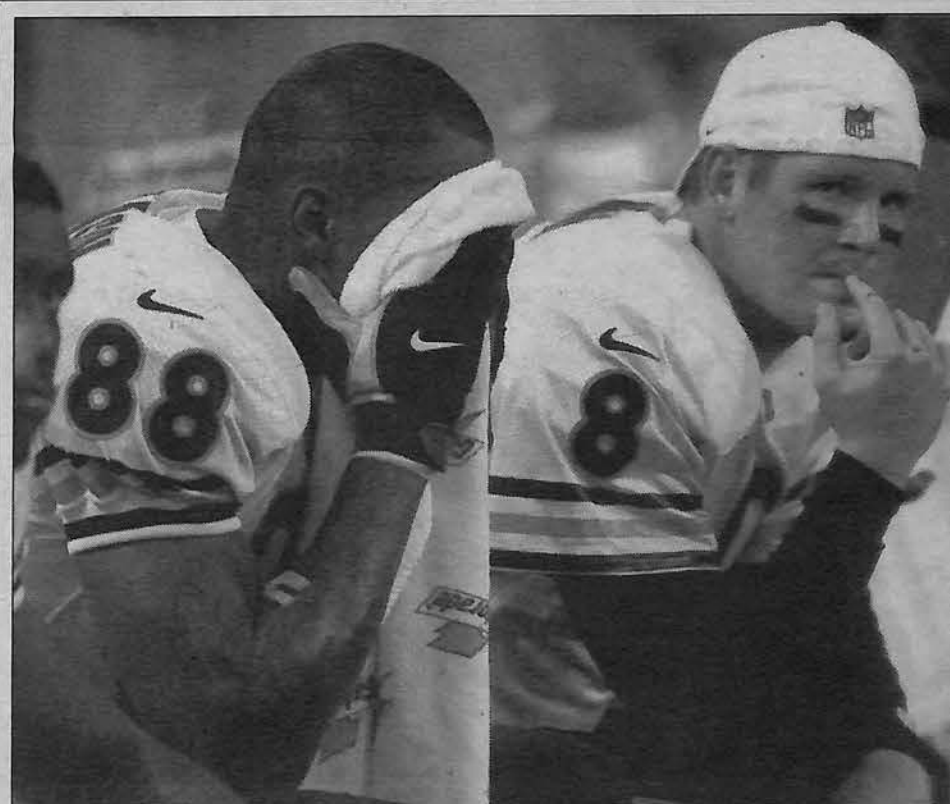


Photo by Andy King

Agony of defeat

Bears receiver Marcus Robinson and quarterback Cade McNown contemplate what might have been late in Sunday's 30-27 loss at Minnesota.



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No rush to judgment



Photo by Steve Woltmann

Phillip Daniels is confident the Bears' pass rush will soon appear: "The preseason is totally different from the regular season," he said.

Bears confident sacks will come

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

None of the Bears' eight preseason sacks came from a member of the starting defensive line, but \$24 million free agent addition Phillip Daniels isn't ready to panic.

The 6-5, 290-pounder increased his sack total in each of his four NFL seasons with the Seattle Seahawks and sees no reason the trend won't continue.

"It's always like that in preseason—people expect a lot, but teams are not going to show a lot," Daniels said. "I remember in Seattle one year, the starters didn't have any sacks (in the preseason) and we led the league in sacks."

"When we get going (in the regular season), it will be a big difference because we've got our game plan in."

"The preseason is totally different from the regular season. The tempo is different. The calls that the defensive coordinator is making are different. Everything's different. Yeah, there's a lot of pressure on me, but I'm going to just try to go out and play like I did in Seattle and everything should be OK."

The Bears finished 25th in the NFL last season with 37 sacks. Clyde Simmons led the way with 7, followed by Jim Flanigan (6) and Bryan

Robinson (5). Flanigan, an undersized tackle with a non-stop motor, has led or tied for the team lead in sacks in three of the past six seasons. No Bears defensive end has hit double figures in sacks since Richard Dent had 12.5 in 1993.

The Bears bolstered their pass rush with another inside player by signing tackle Brad Culpepper, who registered 23.5 sacks the past three seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Culpepper will push Flanigan and Mike Wells for playing time.

"It's a concern," head coach Dick Jauron said of the pass rush. "It is fair to say that scheme-wise we haven't shown everything that we're going to. It's also fair to say that the pass rush hasn't been as good as we would like it to be. I thought in the (preseason finale against Tennessee) it was probably as good as it's been. I thought we got good pressure at times on the quarterback. So we'll see. It definitely has to improve."

Much of the pressure falls squarely on Daniels, who signed a five-year deal in February that was the richest pact in Bears history. The 27-year-old recorded nine sacks for Seattle last season playing on a line that included Cortez Kennedy, Sam Adams and Michael Sinclair.

With Daniels registering just five tackles and no sacks in four preseason games, Bears fans have been wondering where the free agent has been hiding.

"That doesn't bother me," said Daniels. "I just go out and play hard. I make things happen for my teammates and myself. I'm not concerned about what people say. That's why I really don't read the papers, watch TV or check out the internet. I leave that stuff alone because I know what I can do, and that's the bottom line. My teammates, they know what I can do, and that's all that counts."

Murphy jumps ship to join Buccaneers

The Bears were surprised that Frank Murphy declined a chance to join their practice squad while accepting a similar opportunity with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The sixth-round pick, who was cut when the Bears trimmed their roster to 53, will play wide receiver as a member of the Bucs practice squad. Murphy was a running back with the Bears.

The two sides reportedly met for two hours at Halas Hall after final cuts and the Bears offered Murphy a chance to play receiver on their practice squad and also offered more money than the practice squad minimum.

"He talked to him about doing whatever he wanted to on the practice squad," said Bears personnel boss Mark Hatley. "If you're going to play receiver, would you rather play at Tampa Bay or Chicago? That's a no-brainer in my opinion. Are you going to go somewhere where they throw the ball all the time? Or somewhere where they're going to throw it some, but they've got Keyshawn (Johnson) and he's going to get a majority of them?"

"It's hard for me to understand what young players see sometimes. For a young player to leave a place where he knows the system and think he can go somewhere else and get active is pretty hard."

Murphy rushed for 60 yards on 15 carries in preseason action for the Bears, but he lost out to Marlon Barnes for the fourth running back spot behind Curtis Enis, James Allen and Glyn Milburn. Barnes rushed for 118 yards on 25 carries, a 4.7-yard average.

"I hate to lose him, but if we had it to do over again, we'd do the same thing," Hatley said. "He just wasn't ready to play, and we felt in our running back situation, to keep four, it's hard not to have all of them ready to play right now."

—Larry Mayer

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Barnes prepares for role as understudy to Enis, Allen

When the Bears drafted Frank Murphy, they were intrigued by his power and speed and envisioned him as a third-down back capable of giving the offense another big-play threat.

What they didn't anticipate, however, was that a free agent running back would outperform Murphy during the preseason.

Marlon Barnes made it virtually impossible for the Bears to cut him by rushing for 118 yards on 25 carries for a team-best 4.7 yards per carry. His outstanding 18-yard TD run in the preseason finale against the Tennessee Titans clinched his spot on the 53-man roster.

Now that he's made it, what does the one-time teammate of Rashaan Salaam's at Colorado do now?

"I've just got to refocus," said Barnes, who spent part of last season on practice squads with Oakland and Miami. "Of course Curtis (Enis) and James (Allen) are going to work hard and take the bulk of the

Marlon Barnes
A surprise roster
addition in backfield



load. I'm just going to stay up under them and learn, watch what's going on and work on my game. I'll take advantage of the mental reps while they're in practice and be ready for anything to happen so that if something does happen, God-forbid, I'll be prepared. I'll also focus on special teams and just try to become an asset to the team."

There wasn't one particular moment when Barnes discovered he had made the final roster. When the phone in his hotel room never rang, he simply showed up for work at Halas Hall.

"If you don't get a call in your room, you stay with the schedule," Barnes said. "By the time I got (to Halas Hall), the final cuts were made and I knew I was here."

—Larry Mayer

Jauron keeps Bears on toes

MARK POTASH



He speaks softly, but when Bears coach Dick Jauron wants to get a point across, he carries a big stick.

"We're a team that hasn't been very good and to get good we have to be competitive," Jauron said. "If our players think they can not upgrade their performance and hold onto their job, they're wrong."

Two Bears found that out the hard way on the eve of the final preseason game, when rookie linebacker Brian Urlacher and safety Tony Parrish were benched against Tennessee on Aug. 25. Urlacher's demotion was more of an admission that the Bears had given the rookie too much too soon—and that Roosevelt Colvin was better than even they thought.

But the Parrish move was a clear punishment that Jauron expects to yield better performances from the talented third-year pro from Washington.

Parrish regained his starting spot in Sunday's season opener against Minnesota, but the message was clear.

"We're better. We're deeper. We have more options now," Jauron said. "So that guys that aren't playing as well as they need to play...we have places to turn now. So if a guy's not playing to the level we think he needs to play and we have somebody else who is, we have to make the change."

Every player knows he plays every game with the threat of being replaced, or should. But nothing ingrains the message like action. And that's what Jauron's lineup moves did.

The Bears were lethargic on defense in their third preseason game and needed a shakeup. They were even worse after the shakeup but Jauron is hoping for long-term results not short-term, so the effect of the Parrish-Urlacher demotions might still be felt.

"I would hope [it would be a message]," Jauron said. "But I hope they would know that. That's the nature of our business: do your job. I guess in that respect, it can be a good thing. You have a hard time convincing the guys who got demoted it's a good thing, but in the long run, it's for them also."

If there's any message, it's that even veteran players whose spots appear solidified should not get too comfortable.

Defensive tackles Mike Wells and Jim Flanigan, for instance, almost literally had nobody pushing them for their jobs. Russell Davis and Chris Mims were the backup tackles

in training camp and neither made the team.

Suddenly, though, that situation changed when the Bears acquired Brad Culpepper from Tampa Bay. Culpepper had been a full-time starter with the Buccaneers for five of the past six seasons. His 23 1/2 sacks over the past three seasons are exceeded by only eight other defensive tackles in the NFL.

That's automatic competition for Wells and Flanigan, and they know it.

Neither is a player who needs to be told his job is always on the line. But the addition of real competition is a little reminder.

"It's tough," Wells said. "Now he's my competition. Even though I think he's a great guy and I know he's a good player who's going to help the team...you can't get too excited or else you'll lose your job."

"I didn't see it as a threat, but certainly he is [one]," Flanigan said. "He's a guy that can definitely step in and start at anytime. That's just the nature of the business, I guess."

Human nature being what it is, Wells greeted the Culpepper acquisition with mixed emotions.

"He'll definitely make some plays for us," Wells said. "He's a Flanny-like athletic guy. He's a better pass rusher than me, I'll admit that right away. But I believe I'm a better run player."

"In the whole scheme of things, I'm not comfortable. But in a weird way, I don't feel so threatened like people might expect."

"I view it as a good thing," Flanigan said. "[He's] a guy who can step in who we can have confidence in. He's played a ton of football. He knows all about our divisional opponents. He's going to help our team, especially if somebody gets hurt."

As an undersized tackle (6-1, 270), Culpepper is more of a threat to the 6-2, 280-pound Flanigan than to the 6-3, 320-pound Wells. But with the Bear defense in need of a pass rush, it's conceivable that Culpepper could cut into everybody's playing time.

"He can play where Flanny plays or he can play what I play," Wells said. "If I'm not good enough, he will be the player. You can't really

worry about it."

When the Bears were considering free agent defensive tackle Eric Swann early in training camp, one concern was how it would affect team chemistry—how would an obvious talent like Swann affect the psyches of Wells and Flanigan?

With Culpepper that concern might be the same eventually, but right now it is not.

"Brad and I getting along like best friends already," Flanigan said. "It's a great fit."

"I knew Brad from Minnesota...we got cut together my rookie year," Wells said. "He's fitting in well. Guys are helping him and talking to him. We're all on the same team so you try to get him up to speed...and when he starts playing real good we'll shut up and not help him out."

Wells was laughing as he said it, but he knows there's a hidden truth behind the joke.

"Sometimes you get helped by people, but it can come up and bite them in the [rear]," Wells said. "It's a weird situation. When I was at Detroit, Henry Thomas was a Pro Bowler. He took me to the side and taught me almost everything I know to this day."

"And he got hurt one year and I got to play quite a bit and they decided, 'Hey, Wells is playing good enough, we don't have to pay Henry Thomas all this money,' and I got to be a starter."

And he knows it could happen to him.

"It's just like that," Wells said. "These are the best players in the world. If there are only 31 starting noseguards in the world...I'm sure [Culpepper's] not the only one who wants my

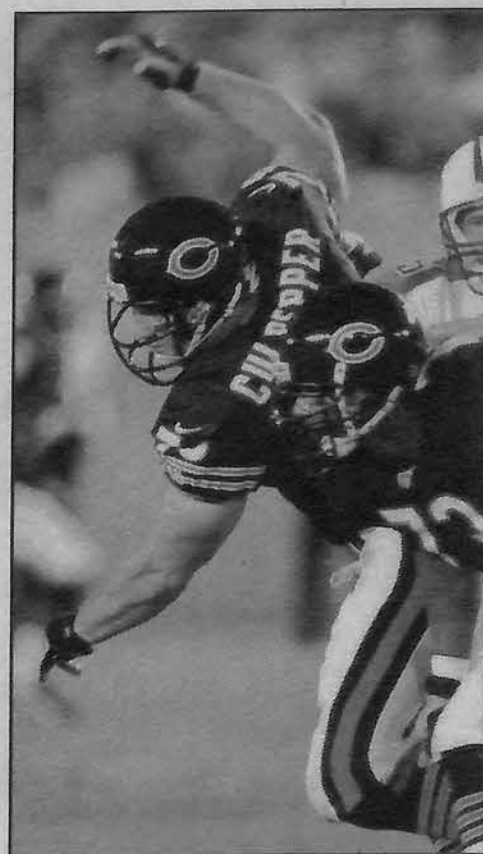
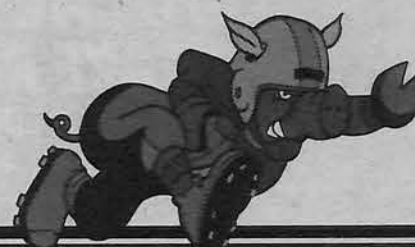


Photo by Steve Woltmann

Brad Culpepper recorded 23.5 sacks the past three seasons for the Bucs.

Mark Potash covers the Bears for the Chicago Sun-Times.

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GAME PREVIEW



CHICAGO BEARS

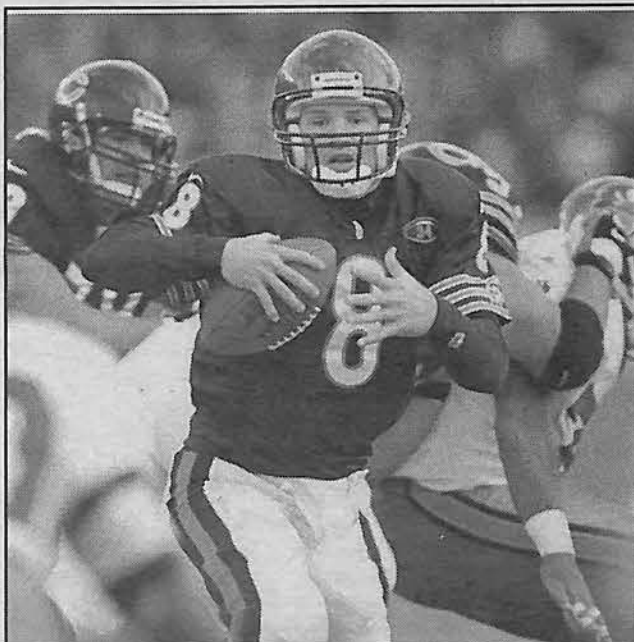
Facts and Figures

Kickoff: Noon (ct), Sunday, Sept. 10.
Site: Raymond James Stadium
Capacity: 66,321
Playing surface: Natural grass
Last meeting: Bucs won 20-6 on Jan. 2, 2000 at Soldier Field. The Bears extended their streak without a touchdown against Tampa to 10 quarters in dropping the season finale. The Bucs outrushed the Bears 143-71 and held Cade McNown to 20 of 42 passing for 196 yards and 1 interception. Jaret Holmes provided Chicago's only points with field goals of 39 and 31 yards.
Series: Bears lead 30-14 but have dropped five straight for first time ever.



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Bears hope to solve stingy defense



In two games against Tampa Bay last season, Cade McNown completed 29 of 65 passes (47 percent) for 278 yards with two interceptions.

By Gene Chamberlain
 Bear Report Correspondent

Quick: Name the last two Bears to throw touchdown passes against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The answer: Mike Horan and Moses Moreno, a 40-something punter and a third-string quarterback who started as an experiment. Horan threw a flip pass to Ryan Wetnight while holding for placement on a field goal try and Moreno threw for 21 yards to Curtis Conway, both in the same 1998 game. All of the players mentioned above are no longer with the team.

No stat better tells the tale of the frustration Bears offenses have had coping with Tampa Bay coach Tony Dungy's basic yet effective defense than this one, however: Since Dungy was hired in 1996, no regular Bears starting quarterback has thrown a touchdown pass against the Tampa Bay defense.

Bears QB Cade McNown faces the

task of solving a defense which held the Bears out of the end zone in both games last year and has held Chicago to an average of 248 yards the last three years.

Working in the Bears' favor is the fact they face the Bucs early in the year. Tampa Bay is still working in Jamie Duncan as its middle linebacker replacement for Hardy Nickerson and Anthony McFarland as a replacement for new Bear Brad Culpepper.

Bears offensive coordinator Gary Crowton spent all off-season and preseason looking for ways to upgrade his team in the red zone. In that regard this will be a good test of their progress because Tampa Bay led the NFC in red zone defense while the Bears were next to last in the NFC at red zone offense.

The Bears have lost five straight to the Bucs, mostly by lopsided scores. Yet they've managed to stay in most games at least early because Tampa Bay's offense has always been stone-aged at best. To remedy the situation, the Bucs

fired ex-Bear assistant Mike Shula and hired Les Steckel as their offensive coordinator.

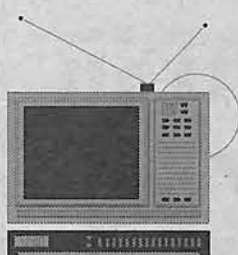
The emphasis remains on fullback Mike Alstott and running back Warrick Dunn, but now quarterback Shaun King has a legitimate Pro Bowl wideout threat in Keyshawn Johnson to draw double teams.

This should make wideout Jacques Green and tight end Dave Moore all the more dangerous to the Bears' secondary.

Tampa Bay last year came up with the perfect complement to its strong defense in kicker Martin Gramatica, and punter Mark Royals was second best in net average in the NFC last year. While Bears kicking and punting has yet to prove itself, the return game and coverage units have edges over the Bucs.

Field goal kicking has been big for the Bears against the Bucs in recent years, chiefly because they've found very few opportunities to actually get the ball into the end zone.

ON THE AIR



Television:

The Fox Network will televise the game live to a regional audience.



Radio:

WBBM-AM (780) will carry the game live with Gary Bender, Hub Arkush and Tom Thayer announcing.

Who rates the advantage?

By Gene Chamberlain



Positions

Comments

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarterback	At least McNown realizes he has wideouts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Running back	Enis, a tailback, outrushed by Alstott, a fullback, in '99.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wide receiver	With Keyshawn, Bucs finally have a receiver. That's one.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tight end	Dave Moore always finds a way to hurt the Bears.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Offensive line	Vike defectors Christy, McDaniel, but Bears' line stable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Defensive line	Sapp NFL's best tackle; run game tests Wells, Flanigan.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linebackers	Nickerson not easily replaced; Colvin must deliver.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secondary	Abraham 7 picks last year; Keyshawn tests Smith.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special teams	Bucs' Gramatica is automatica, but so is Milburn.



CHICAGO BEARS



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

No.	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Age	Exp	College
2	Paul Edinger	K	5-10	162	22	R	Michigan State
8	Cade McNown	QB	6-1	208	23	2	UCLA
9	Shane Matthews	QB	6-3	196	30	7	Florida
12	Brent Bartholomew	P	6-2	220	23	2	Ohio State
15	Jim Miller	QB	6-2	215	28	7	Michigan State
20	James Allen	RB	5-10	215	24	3	Oklahoma
21	R.W. McQuarters	CB	5-9	198	23	3	Oklahoma State
22	Shawn Wooden	S	5-11	205	26	5	Notre Dame
23	Jerry Azumah	CB	5-10	195	22	2	New Hampshire
24	Glyn Milburn	RB/KR	5-8	176	28	8	Stanford
25	Thomas Smith	CB	5-11	190	29	8	North Carolina
27	Walt Harris	CB	5-11	195	26	5	Mississippi State
29	Frankie Smith	S	5-9	194	31	8	Baylor
30	Mike Brown	S	5-10	202	22	R	Nebraska
32	Marlon Barnes	RB	5-9	215	24	1	Colorado
37	Tony Parrish	S	5-10	211	24	3	Washington
43	Mike Green	S	6-0	176	23	R	Northwestern State
44	Curtis Enis	RB	6-0	250	24	3	Penn State
53	Warrick Holdman	LB	6-1	246	24	2	Texas A&M
54	Brian Urlacher	LB	6-3	244	22	R	New Mexico
55	Sean Harris	LB	6-3	252	27	6	Arizona
57	Olin Kreutz	C	6-2	285	23	3	Washington
58	Chris Villarrial	G	6-4	308	27	5	Indiana (PA)
59	Rosevelt Colvin	LB	6-3	254	23	2	Purdue
60	Casey Wiegmann	C	6-3	285	25	5	Iowa
64	Rex Tucker	OL	6-5	315	23	2	Texas A&M
65	Patrick Mannely	T/LS	6-5	270	25	3	Duke
71	James Williams	T	6-7	331	31	10	Cheyne State (PA)
74	Jimmy Herndon	T	6-8	318	27	5	Houston
75	Todd Perry	G	6-5	308	29	8	Kentucky
76	Brad Culpepper	DT	6-1	270	31	9	Florida
78	Blake Brockermeyer	T	6-4	300	26	6	Texas
79	Jerry Wisne	T	6-6	315	24	2	Notre Dame
80	Dez White	WR	6-0	219	21	R	Georgia Tech
81	Bobby Engram	WR	5-10	185	27	5	Penn State
82	Eddie Kennison	WR	6-0	198	27	5	LSU
83	Macey Brooks	WR	6-5	212	24	2	James Madison
84	John Allred	TE	6-4	246	26	4	USC
85	Alonzo Mayes	TE	6-4	265	25	3	Oklahoma State
86	Marty Booker	WR	5-11	215	24	2	Northwest Louisiana
87	D'Wayne Bates	WR	6-2	215	24	2	Northwestern
88	Marcus Robinson	WR	6-3	215	24	4	South Carolina
89	Dustin Lyman	TE	6-4	250	24	R	Wake Forest
90	Van Tuinei	DE	6-4	290	28	4	Arizona
91	Khari Samuel	LB	6-3	240	23	2	Massachusetts
92	Barry Minter	LB	6-2	250	29	8	Tulsa
93	Phillip Daniels	DE	6-5	290	27	5	Georgia
94	Ty Hallock	LB	6-2	249	29	8	Michigan State
95	Troy Wilson	DE	6-4	257	29	5	Pittsburgh State
96	Clyde Simmons	DE	6-5	292	36	15	Western Carolina
97	Mike Wells	DT	6-3	315	29	8	Iowa
98	Bryan Robinson	DE	6-4	300	26	4	Fresno State
99	Jim Flanigan	DT	6-2	290	29	7	Notre Dame
Injured Reserve							
39	Reggie Austin	CB	5-9	173	23	R	Wake Forest
80	Sulecio Sanford	WR	5-10	190	23	1	Middle Tenn. State

Age as of opening weekend 2000

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
3	Mark Royals	P	6-1	215	35	12	Appalachian State
7	Martin Gramatica	K	5-8	170	24	2	Kansas State
10	Shaun King	QB	6-0	225	23	2	Tulane
14	Joe Hamilton	QB	5-10	190	23	R	Georgia Tech
15	Eric Zeier	QB	6-1	214	27	6	Georgia
19	Keyshawn Johnson	WR	6-4	212	28	5	USC
20	Ronde Barber	CB	5-10	184	25	4	Virginia
21	Donnie Abraham	CB	5-10	192	26	5	East Tennessee St.
22	Aaron Stecker	RB	5-10	205	23	1	Western Illinois
24	Damien Robinson	S	6-2	214	26	4	Iowa
25	Brian Kelly	CB	5-11	193	24	3	S. California
27	Rabih Abdullah	RB	6-1	227	25	3	Lehigh
28	Warrick Dunn	RB	5-8	180	25	4	Florida State
31	Floyd Young	CB	6-0	179	24	4	Texas A&M-Kingsville
34	Dexter Jackson	S	6-0	196	23	2	Florida State
39	Lemar Marshall	S	6-2	208	23	1	Michigan State
40	Mike Alstott	FB	6-1	248	26	5	Purdue
44	Todd Yoder	TE	6-4	234	22	R	Vanderbilt
46	David Gibson	S	6-1	210	22	R	USC
47	John Lynch	S	6-2	220	28	8	Stanford
48	Blake Spence	TE	6-4	249	25	3	Oregon
50	Jeff Gooch	LB	5-11	225	25	5	Austin Peay
51	Alshermund Singleton	LB	6-2	228	25	4	Temple
52	Nate Webster	LB	5-11	225	20	R	Miami (FL)
53	Shelton Quarles	LB	6-1	230	28	4	Vanderbilt
55	Derrick Brooks	LB	6-0	235	27	6	Florida State
58	Don Davis	LB	6-1	234	27	5	Kansas
59	Jamie Duncan	LB	6-0	242	25	3	Vanderbilt
60	Cosey Coleman	G	6-4	322	21	R	Tennessee
62	Jeff Christy	C	6-3	285	31	8	Pittsburgh
64	Randall McDaniel	G	6-3	287	35	13	Arizona Stae
65	Kevin Dogins	C/G	6-1	301	27	4	Texas A&M-Kingsville
68	Morris Unutoa	C/LS	6-1	284	29	5	Brigham Young
69	Pete Pierson	T	6-5	315	29	6	Washington
71	Jerry Wunsch	T	6-6	339	26	4	Wisconsin
72	Chidi Ahanotu	DE	6-2	285	29	8	California
73	Frank Middleton	G	6-3	334	25	4	Arizona
75	Todd Washington	C/G	6-3	324	24	3	Virginia Tech
76	DeMarcus Curry	T	6-5	332	25	1	Auburn
78	Marcus Jones	DE	6-6	278	27	5	North Carolina
79	George Hegamin	G/T	6-7	331	27	7	North Carolina St.
81	Jacquez Green	WR	5-9	168	24	3	Florida
82	Patrick Hape	TE	6-4	262	26	4	Alabama
83	Dave Moore	TE	6-2	258	30	8	Pittsburgh
84	Andre Hastings	WR	6-1	190	28	8	Georgia
85	Reidel Anthony	WR	5-11	180	23	4	Florida
86	Karl Williams	WR	5-10	177	29	5	Texas A&M-Kingsville
92	Anthony McFarland	DT	6-0	300	22	2	Louisiana State
94	Steve White	DE	6-2	271	26	5	Tennessee
95	John McLaughlin	DE	6-4	247	24	2	California
97	Tyoka Jackson	DE/DT	6-2	280	28	6	Penn State
98	James Cannida	DT	6-2	291	25	3	Nevada-Reno
99	Warren Sapp	DT	6-2	303	27	6	Miami (FL)
Injured Reserve							
16	Chris Daniels	WR	6-3	219	23	R	Purdue
70	Jason Odom	T	6-5	312	26	5	Florida

What to Watch

How the Florida heat and humidity impact the Bears late in the game. The summer in Platteville was unusually mild so the Bears haven't had to endure severe heat. The Tampa late-summer humidity and heat can be brutal. In the inaugural game at Raymond James Stadium in September 1998, the Bears led 15-0 at halftime but lost 27-15.

The spy factor will also be big in this game. DT Brad Culpepper came to the Bears just before the last preseason game after becoming an institution in Tampa as Warren Sapp's sidekick. He could provide some insight into how the Bears can get into the end zone.



MEET THE COACHES

Dick Jauron

Dick Jauron, 49, enters his second season as Bears head coach. Last year he led the Bears to a 6-10 record, the most wins by the club since 1996. He guided the Bears to road wins at Minnesota and Green Bay, a feat last accomplished by the 1991 Bears. Jauron played safety for eight NFL seasons with the Detroit Lions and Cincinnati Bengals.



Tony Dungy

Tony Dungy, 44, is 37-31 in his fifth season coaching the Bucs. He's the only head coach to compile a winning coaching record for Tampa Bay. A 15-year NFL assistant, Dungy served as Dennis Green's defensive coordinator in Minnesota from 1992-95. His Vikings defenses led the NFL during those years with 95 total interceptions. He also had stints in Kansas City and Pittsburgh.



Recent Meetings

Date	Winner (Site)
1999	Buccaneers 20-6 (S)
	Buccaneers 6-3 (RJ)
1998	Buccaneers 31-17 (S)
	Buccaneers 27-15 (RJ)
1997	Buccaneers 31-15 (T)
	Bears 13-7 (S)
1996	Buccaneers 34-19 (T)
	Bears 13-10 (S)
1995	Bears 31-10 (S)
	Bears 25-6 (T)
1994	Bears 20-6 (T)
	Bears 21-9 (S)
1993	Buccaneers 13-10 (T)
	Bears 47-17 (S)

Stadium codes: S (Soldier Field), T (Tampa Stadium), RJ (Raymond James Stadium)

KEY MATCHUPS



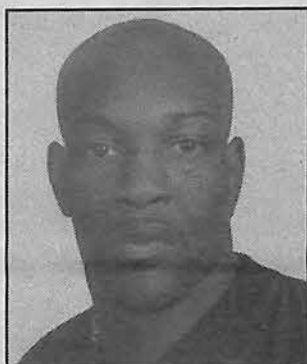
THOMAS SMITH

VS.

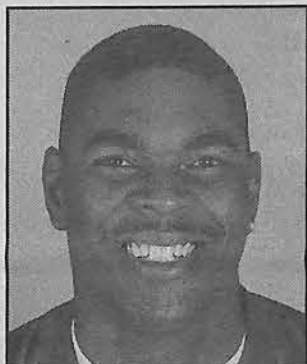
KEYSHAWN JOHNSON

Smith had a reputation for shutting down some of the league's best wideouts when the Bears signed him for \$22.6 million. Last year with Buffalo, he and the Bills' secondary held the Jets and Johnson to 121 passing yards in their first game. In 1998 he helped hold Jerry Rice to three catches.

NFL Films could make a mint if it miked Johnson and Smith and sold the tape. Johnson's reputation for talking is well known. Smith has made it clear he has no lack of confidence since coming to the Bears.



Thomas Smith



Keyshawn Johnson

PHILLIP DANIELS

VS.

PETE PIERSON

If Phillip Daniels was pacing himself in preseason, there's no need to do so any longer – especially when the man blocking him is sadly lacking in experience.

Pierson is a reserve who has started only seven games. The Bucs had to put starting left tackle Jason Odom on injured reserve prior to the season-opener due to back pains. Pierson, a 6-foot-5, 315-pounder, has played in six games. He played last year against the Bears when Paul Gruber broke his leg in the regular-season finale at Soldier Field.



Phillip Daniels



Pete Pierson

MARCUS ROBINSON

VS.

DONNIE ABRAHAM

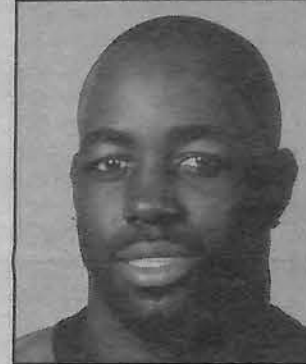
The Bucs kept Robinson from hurting them deep last year, while forcing him to catch more underneath passes. He had 12 catches for 164 yards against them but no touchdowns.

Abraham was a major reason. A 5-foot-10, 192-pounder from East Tennessee State, Abraham is a five-year veteran who tied for the NFC lead in interceptions last year with seven. He also set a team record with 31 pass defenses.

Abraham frequently gets matched up on the opposition's best receiver.



Marcus Robinson



Donnie Abraham

WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL

RCB 20 BARBER 25 Kelly	FS 24 ROBINSON 34 Jackson	SS 47 LYNCH 46 Gibson	LCB 21 ABRAHAM 31 Young
WLB 55 BROOKS 58 Davis	MLB 59 DUNCAN 52 Webster	SLB 53 QUARLES 51 Singleton 50 Gooch	
RE 94 WHITE 95 McLaughlin	RT 99 SAPP 98 Cannida	LT 92 MCFARLAND 97 Jackson	LE 72 AHANOTU 78 Jones
WR 81 ENGRAM 86 Booker 83 Brooks 87 Bates	LT 78 BROCKMEYER 74 Herndon	LG 75 PERRY 64 Tucker	C 57 KREUTZ 60 Wiegmann
		RG 58 VILLARRIAL 64 Tucker	RT 71 WILLIAMS 79 Wisne
			TE 84 ALLRED 85 Mayes 89 Lyman
	QB 8 MCNOWN 15 Miller 9 Matthews		WR 88 ROBINSON 82 Kennison 80 White
	RB 44 ENIS 32 Barnes	RB 20 ALLEN 24 Milburn	

WHEN THE BUCS HAVE THE BALL

RCB 25 SMITH 23 Azumah	FS 30 BROWN 22 Wooden	SS 37 PARRISH 29 Smith 43 Green	LCB 27 HARRIS 21 McQuarters
WLB 53 HOLDMAN 55 Harris	MLB 92 MINTER 91 Samuel 94 Hallock	SLB 59 COLVIN 54 Urlacher	
RE 93 DANIELS 96 Simmons	RT 97 WELLS 90 Tuinei	LT 99 FLANIGAN 76 Culpepper	LE 98 ROBINSON 95 Wilson
WR 19 JOHNSON 84 Hastings	LT 69 PIERSON 79 Hegamin	LG 64 MCDANIEL 65 Dogins	C 62 CHRISTY 75 Washington 68 Unutoa
		RG 73 MIDDLETON 60 Coleman	RT 71 WUNSCH 76 Curry
			TE 83 MOORE 82 Hape 00 Spence 44 Yoder
	QB 10 KING 15 Zeier 14 Hamilton		WR 81 GREEN 85 Anthony 86 Williams
RB 28 DUNN 27 Abdullah 22 Stecker	FB 40 ALSTOTT		



TALE OF THE TAPE

Chicago Bears at Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Rankings from 1999)	Bears hel- met 50% of cent. is.	BUCS hel- met 50% of cent. is.
OFFENSIVE RANKINGS		
TOTAL OFFENSE	8	28
Rushing offense	26	15
Passing offense	3	30
Total yards per play	19	29
Rushing average	23	22
Passing average	19	26
Percentage had intercepted	14	22
Sacks allowed per pass play	6	24
First downs per game	12	29
Third down efficiency	13 (t)	20
Fourth down efficiency	18	14
Punt return average	6	22
Kickoff return average	12	20
Gross punt average	21	8
Net punt average	13	6
Points per game	25 (t)	27
Field goal percentage	31	9
DEFENSIVE RANKINGS		
TOTAL DEFENSE	29	3
Rushing defense	23	5
Passing defense	29	2
Total yards per play	28	3
Rushing average	28	16
Passing average	25	2
Percentage intercepted by	26	12
Sacks per pass play	25	14
First downs per game	23	1
Third down efficiency	27	7
Fourth down efficiency	1	7 (t)
Punt return average	8	7
Kickoff return average	1	2
Gross punt average	1	9
Net punt average	1	16
Points per game	20 (t)	3
Opponents' FG percentage	6	16 (t)

TURN BACK THE CLOCK



Bears double their pleasure

One of the rarest feats in Bears history paved the way to a 14-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Nov. 26, 1978 at Soldier Field.

Roland Harper rushed for a career-high 144 yards and Walter Payton added 105 yards, giving the Bears two 100-yard rushers for the first time since Rick Casares and Bobby Watkins had 115 yards apiece in a 52-31 win over the Green Bay Packers in 1955.

Harper's performance remains the second most prolific day by a fullback in Bears history. Casares rushed for 190 yards in a 1956 game against the Detroit Lions.

"I loved it, but the big thing is that we won," Harper said. "I didn't even know until after the game that I made a hundred. We played with more intensity. The linemen were sticking and staying with their blocks. They didn't worry

As part of every game preview this season in Bear Report, we will take a look back at a memorable game played between the Bears and their upcoming opponent.

BEARS 14, Tampa Bay 3
Nov. 26, 1978
Soldier Field

about stunts."

Bears quarterback Bob Avellini threw only six passes, completing four for a net gain of 50 yards. The victory was the Bears' second straight after a team-record eight-game losing streak and upped their record to 5-8.

The Bears have had two 100-yard rushers only four times in their history. Payton and Matt Suhey did it twice, in 1983 against the Bucs and 1985 versus the Detroit Lions.

The Bears defense did its part, sacking Tampa Bay Mike Rae eight times. "Rae was holding the ball until the last second," said Bears defensive tackle Alan Page. "We were getting good coverage and he played in Oakland so long where they had that good offensive line."

— Larry Mayer

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AND BOLTS.
WE GOT
SCREWED."**

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CHICAGO
BEAR
REPORT

92
J. J. J.



WR

Marty Booker



There is little doubt the Bears are going to be an improved team this year, but that's nothing new. Over the past 25 years every Bears head coach has earned more victories in his second season at the helm than he managed in the first.

Dick Jauron, who went 6-10 a year ago, has the added benefit of an improved roster. In 1994 Dave Wannstedt went from seven wins his first year to a 9-7 record and a playoff berth his second season. But the talent level wasn't very good and a steady decline turned into a free fall within two years.

Conversely, Mike Ditka managed just three wins in a strike-shortened 1982 season and came back to win eight the next year with an improving team en route to a Super Bowl.

But just how good the Bears can be this year remains uncertain and it is Jauron's job to walk the tightrope between demanding top performances without shattering confidence.

The team didn't allow a touchdown in their first two preseason games, but after giving up three in a loss to Cincinnati Jauron moved quickly to deal with some lethargy that crept into the defense. Rookie first round draft pick Brian Urlacher and strong safety Tony Parrish were both demoted. It didn't do much good against a Tennessee team that completely outclassed the Bears in the preseason finale.

But a message was certainly sent.

"If our players think they can not upgrade our performance and hold onto their job they are wrong," coach Dick Jauron said. "That's the way we talk to our team and if we don't follow through I don't know why we're saying what we're saying and I don't know why the players

Improved Bears still need budding stars

MIKE MULLIGAN



would believe us."

The weird thing about it is that the guys who received the message may not have been the intended targets. Defensive tackle Mike Wells openly wondered if he should be replaced by new signee Brad Culpepper. Receiver Marcus Robinson said he needed to revamp his approach because it just wasn't working and he didn't want to be replaced.

Those guys are the heart and soul of the team and seeing them suffer through self-doubt is awful scary.

Urlacher is just going through some rookie growing pains as he makes the transition from college safety to linebacker. He's lined up

wrong, failed to use his hands correctly to fight off tight ends and occasionally leads with his head while tackling.

Parrish, who was reinstated as a starter for the season opener, was as shocked as anyone by his one-game demotion.

"Maybe a little disappointed," Jauron said when asked if he was surprised that he had to make the move. "Tony is a tremendous athlete and a tremendous football player. He makes a lot of plays, but we need a lot of consistency. Mistakes in the secondary really cost you. That's seven points on the board in a hurry."

But the move only underscored one of the problems with this year's team. It's difficult to say exactly who should be starting for the Bears.

The only thing learned in a 2-2 preseason is that the Bears reserves are better than other team's reserves. Heck, the Bears reserves might be better than the Bears starters.

Think about it. This is more a team of excellent backups than one of budding stars.

Third stringer Shane Matthews might be a better quarterback than Cade McNown or Jim Miller. Marlon Barnes might be a better running back than Curtis Enis and James Allen. D'Wayne Bates might be a better receiver than No. 3 wideout Marty Booker.

You can sit down Urlacher because you've got Roosevelt Colvin. Tony Parrish can take a seat when you've got Shawn Wooden and Mike Brown.

"I could be the starter or I could be cut, that's exactly how I feel," said tight end Alonzo Mayes, who narrowly made the roster ahead of Ryan Wetnight. "It's the same for a lot of us. At every position we have there are guys fighting to be the starter."

The Bears' excess of depth is more a burden than a bounty. The fear is that the most exciting time of the season could conceivably have passed on cutdown day.

Look at what the Bears went through with their kickers this off-season. Jaret Holmes was cut in favor of Paul Edinger. Holmes was per-



Photo by Heather Hall

Some believe that third-stringer Shane Matthews is actually the best quarterback on the Bears roster.

fect in his preseason attempts while Edinger's only miss came from 54 yards.

Teams loaded with front line stars win in the NFL. You need guys like Steve McNair, Eddie George, Frank Wycheck and Jevon Kearse to get to a Super Bowl. For all the talk of the Bears' depth at wide receiver the Titans are deeper and better at that position.

"We've got more depth than we've ever had before," said offensive coordinator Gary Crowton, who used the confusion in the right rotation at wide receiver as an example.

"Eddie Kennison did a good job. Booker came in the fourth quarter and made some good catches. Marcus (Robinson) had a great first quarter last week. Bobby (Engram) is always solid. Macey Brooks has played well. We still aren't sure how to play these guys."

The depth is terrific. But as Dick Jauron observed in Platteville earlier this year, "you are not going to beat people with the bottom part of your roster."

But at least it gives you a chance to finish in the middle of the pack which would be quite an improvement indeed.

Mike Mulligan covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Sun-Times.

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GAME STORY

Big plays burn Bears, waste McNown effort

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Cade McNown waged an epic battle with fellow second-year quarterback Daunte Culpepper in Sunday's season-opener at Minnesota. But the Bears ultimately lost 30-27 after their defense was victimized by a pair of big plays and Blake Brockermeyer was victimized by a temporary loss of self-control and common sense.

In the most gutsy performance of his young NFL career, McNown rushed for a team-high and career-best 87 yards and 1 TD on 10 attempts and completed 27 of 41 passes for 290 yards with 2 TDs and no interceptions. Five of McNown's rushes came on quarterback draws.

Culpepper matched his counterpart, becoming the first quarterback in Vikings history to rush for three TDs in a game. In his first NFL start, the 6-4, 266-pounder ran for 73 yards

27	30

on 13 carries and completed 13 of 23 passes for 190 yards. Culpepper set up an early Vikings field goal with scrambles of 24 and 21 yards before he even attempted his first NFL pass.

"It's very hard because you know he's big and strong, but you don't realize how fast he is," said Bears defensive tackle Jim Flanigan. "The guy can flat-out run and run you over."

The Bears (0-1) blew a 20-9 third quarter lead as the Vikings (1-0) scored touchdowns on three of four possessions. After Chicago's defense limited Randy Moss and Cris Carter to a combined one catch for nine yards in the first half, Moss beat cornerback Thomas Smith for a 66-yard bomb to set up Minnesota's go-ahead touchdown.

Culpepper's 7-yard TD dash on the next play gave Minnesota a 23-20 lead with 10:59 left in the fourth quarter.

With the Bears driving toward a tying field goal, Brockermeyer committed a costly mistake. After completing a 14-yard pass to tight end Alonzo Mayes, McNown was flattened



Photo by Andy King

Wide open tight end John Allred hauls in an 18-yard touchdown pass from Cade McNown in the first quarter of Sunday's 30-27 loss to the Vikings.

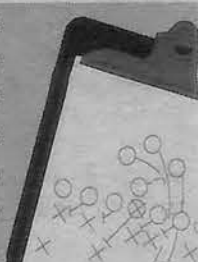
with a vicious helmet-to-helmet hit by defensive end Talance Sawyer. When Brockermeyer took umbrage and retaliated, offsetting penalties were assessed, which wiped out the catch and the penalty yardage that would have been tacked on. Instead of a first down at the Vikings' 21, the Bears had to replay the down from the 50. Four plays later, they were forced to punt.

"Blake apologized for it," said Bears coach Dick Jauron. "He felt like he lost control. The problem is, it was a cheap shot. He saw it. He thought Cade was hurt badly and told me he just reacted before he could think about it."

The Bears had taken a 13-9 halftime lead on McNown's 18-yard TD pass to tight end John Allred and Paul Edinger's field goals of 29 and

PLAY OF THE GAME

Blake Brockermeyer's personal foul penalty midway through the fourth quarter cost the Bears 29 yards and a chance to tie the game with a field goal.



49 yards. The rookie sixth-round pick, who was 5 of 6 in the preseason, made his only attempts in his first NFL game.

When the Bears extended their lead to 20-9 on McNown's 48-yard TD pass to Marcus Robinson early in the third quarter, Chicago seemed well on its way to victory. Robinson outleaped linebacker Kailee Wong across the middle to haul in a pass behind him, then broke away from safety Orlando Thomas.

But the Vikings responded with a 9-play, 72-yard drive capped by Culpepper's 1-yard TD dive that drew Minnesota to within 20-16 with 5:24 left in the third quarter.

Two more Vikings touchdowns, set up by Culpepper's bomb to Moss and Robert Smith's 59-yard run, gave Minnesota a 30-20 lead.

"We did such a good job in the first half," Jauron said. "In the second half they just snuck in a couple of big plays and that ends up being the deciding factor in the game."

McNown's 8-yard TD scramble capped a 10-play, 75-yard drive with 1:18 left, but Moss easily hauled in Edinger's ensuing onside kick after a high bounce to seal the game.

"Everything they did to us early I thought we countered and had an answer for," said Bears linebacker Barry Minter. "Late in the game they started to counter and do some things against us. They're a team that lives on the big play and they got it today. You've got to take your hats off to them because they've got those types of players."

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Bears 2000 Schedule

PRESEASON			
Date	Opponent	Bears	Opponent
Sat., Aug. 5	at N.Y. Giants	20	8
Sat., Aug. 12	CLEVELAND BROWNS	19	6
Sat., Aug. 19	at Cincinnati Bengals	20	24
Fri., Aug. 25	TENNESSEE TITANS	28	34
REGULAR SEASON			
Sun., Sept. 3	at Minnesota Vikings	27	30
Sun., Sept. 10	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Noon	FOX
Sun., Sept. 17	NEW YORK GIANTS	3:15 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Sept. 24	DETROIT LIONS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 1	at Green Bay Packers	3:15 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Oct. 8	NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 15	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	7:20 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Oct. 22	at Philadelphia Eagles	Noon	FOX
Sun., Oct. 29	Bye		
Sun., Nov. 5	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Nov. 12	at Buffalo Bills	Noon	FOX
Sun., Nov. 19	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	Noon	FOX
Sun., Nov. 26	at N.Y. Jets	Noon	FOX
Sun., Dec. 3	GREEN BAY PACKERS	7:20 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Dec. 10	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Dec. 17	at San Francisco 49ers	3:05 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Dec. 24	at Detroit Lions	Noon	FOX

*Central time

INSIDE THE BEARS

**McNown defends
lineman's reaction**

It was an undisciplined play that significantly contributed to Sunday's 30-27 loss to the Vikings. But Cade McNown understood teammate Blake Brockermeyer's reaction after the quarterback was decked with a late helmet-to-helmet hit by defensive end Talance Sawyer.

Brockermeyer dropped Sawyer with a shove, drawing offsetting penalties which negated a 14-yard completion to tight end Alonzo Mayes and the additional penalty yardage that would have been tacked on. The 29 yards cost the Bears a chance at a game-tying field goal in the fourth quarter.

"Blake is a good friend of mine," McNown said. "All of the linemen I'm close with. When they see somebody take a cheap shot like that, the first reaction is to go over there and rectify the situation. I respect him for that. But at the same time he knows he's got to keep his head and that field position is important. But hey, if he's going to do that then I'm behind him."

Brockermeyer said he regretted retaliating but admitted he would probably do the same thing again in a similar situation.

"Unfortunately I probably would," he said. "I wish I could say I wouldn't, (but) when you see a flag like that and the guy laying there, it's hard to walk away from that."

"In hindsight I wish I hadn't done it because it cost us some yards. But it's kind of a double-edged sword because you can't let them get away with that but also you cost your team too."

— Larry Mayer

Gutsy McNown stars

Overcomes obstacles to produce 377 yards, 3 TDs

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Cade McNown overcame faulty headphones and a painful injury to have his most complete outing as a pro. Unable to communicate with coaches for portions of the game and nursing a bruised hand, McNown still produced three touchdowns and 377 yards of offense in Sunday's 30-27 loss at Minnesota.



Brockermeyer

"We were rotating receivers in and we were trying to hand signal," said Bears offensive coordinator Gary Crowton. "For a young quarterback like Cade, he did a tremendous job of getting the information, getting to the line of scrimmage and going. He's a tough kid. He'll get better. His hand was a little sore. He got hit in the hand. It was nothing real serious, but it was something that really bothered him on the deep throws."

McNown rushed for 87 yards on 10 carries, gaining 46 yards on five quarterback draws and 41 yards on five scrambles.

"We had the quarterback draw in the game plan," Crowton said. "If they double up and bracket (receivers) and put safeties over the top, it means it's open up the middle."

Game of inches: Bears rookie safety Mike Brown was oh-so-close to making the biggest play of the game. With the Bears ahead 20-16 early in the fourth quarter, Randy Moss fumbled after catching a short pass in the right flat deep in Bears territory. Brown got one hand on the ball before it skidded out of bounds.

Two plays later, Moss beat Thomas Smith



GAME NOTES

for a 66-yard reception and quarterback Daunte Culpepper followed with a 7-yard TD run that put the Vikings ahead 23-20.

"I should have made the play. I misplayed the ball," said Brown, Chicago's only rookie starter. "I had it, and it just squirted out of my hands. I was going over there pretty fast and I should have just settled down a little bit. I could have made the play if I had just took my time, but I kind of rushed and lost it."

"I think if they would have fallen on it, that would have put the dagger in the thing," Moss said.

Hard to tackle: The Bears generated decent pressure on Culpepper, but managed only one Phillip Daniels sack. The massive 6-4, 266-pound quarterback rushed for 73 yards and 3 TDs on 13 carries while completing 13 of 23 passes for 190 yards in his first NFL start. Culpepper, drafted one slot ahead of McNown in 1999, played sparingly in one game as a rookie but did not attempt a pass.

"The problem is when you pressure him, he

runs and is hard to tackle," said Bears coach Dick Jauron. "It's just the nature of the game. As the play gets longer, it opens up a lot of opportunities for athletic quarterbacks."

Double coverage: After Moss (12-204-0) and Cris Carter (9-141-3) combined for 21 receptions for 345 yards and 3 TDs in Minnesota's 27-24 overtime win last Nov. 14 at Soldier Field, it was clear the Bears were determined not to let the dynamic duo beat them.

The plan worked flawlessly in the first half when Moss caught one pass for nine yards and Carter was blanked. They finished the game by combining for six catches for 115 yards, 66 of those coming on one Moss reception.

"The Bears did some things with double coverage that made it difficult to get the ball to Randy and Cris," said Vikings coach Dennis Green.

Briefly: Bears CB Jerry Azumah recorded his first NFL interception by plucking a ball that uncharacteristically deflected off the hands of a wide open Carter. ... SS Tony Parrish prevented Minnesota points with two early crushing hits. He forced the Vikings to kick a field goal after dropping Moe Williams for a loss of one on third-and-one at the Bears' 17 and later drilled tight end Andrew Jordan in the end zone to turn a sure touchdown into an incomplection. ... James Allen led Bears running backs with 60 yards on nine carries. Curtis Enis carried only four times for 11 yards.

2000 NFL STANDINGS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	21	16
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	41	14
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	20	17
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	16	21
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	14	41

Central Division

Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	14	10
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	30	27
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	21	16
BEARS	0	1	0	.000	27	30
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	16	20

Western Division

Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	36	28
St. Louis	1	0	0	1.000	41	36
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	17	20
New Orleans	0	1	0	.000	10	14
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000	28	36

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	16	13
Indianapolis	1	0	0	1.000	27	14
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	23	0
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	20	16
New England	0	1	0	.000	16	21

Central Division

Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	16	0
Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000	27	9
Cincinnati	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	7	27
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	0	16
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	13	16

Western Division

Oakland	1	0	0	1.000	9	6
Denver	0	1	0	.000	36	41
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	14	27
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	6	9
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	0	23

Bye: Cincinnati

Sunday, Sept. 3

Minnesota 30, BEARS 27
N.Y. Giants 21, Arizona 16
Baltimore 16, Pittsburgh 0
Washington 20, Carolina 17
Detroit 14, New Orleans 10
Indianapolis 27, Kansas City 14
Jacksonville 27, Cleveland 7
Atlanta 36, San Francisco 28
Tampa Bay 21, New England 16
Philadelphia 41, Dallas 14
Oakland 9, San Diego 6
Miami 23, Seattle 0
N.Y. Jets 20, Green Bay 16
Buffalo 16, Tennessee 13

Monday, Sept. 4

St. Louis 41, Denver 36

Bye: Pittsburgh

Sunday, Sept. 10

BEARS at Tampa Bay, noon
Cleveland at Cincinnati, noon
Green Bay at Buffalo, noon
Jacksonville at Baltimore, noon
Kansas City at Tennessee, noon
Miami at Minnesota, noon
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, noon
Oakland at Indianapolis, noon
Atlanta at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Carolina at San Francisco, 3:15 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 3:15 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 3:15 p.m.
New Orleans at San Diego, 3:15 p.m.
Dallas at Arizona, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 11

New England at N.Y. Jets, 8 p.m.

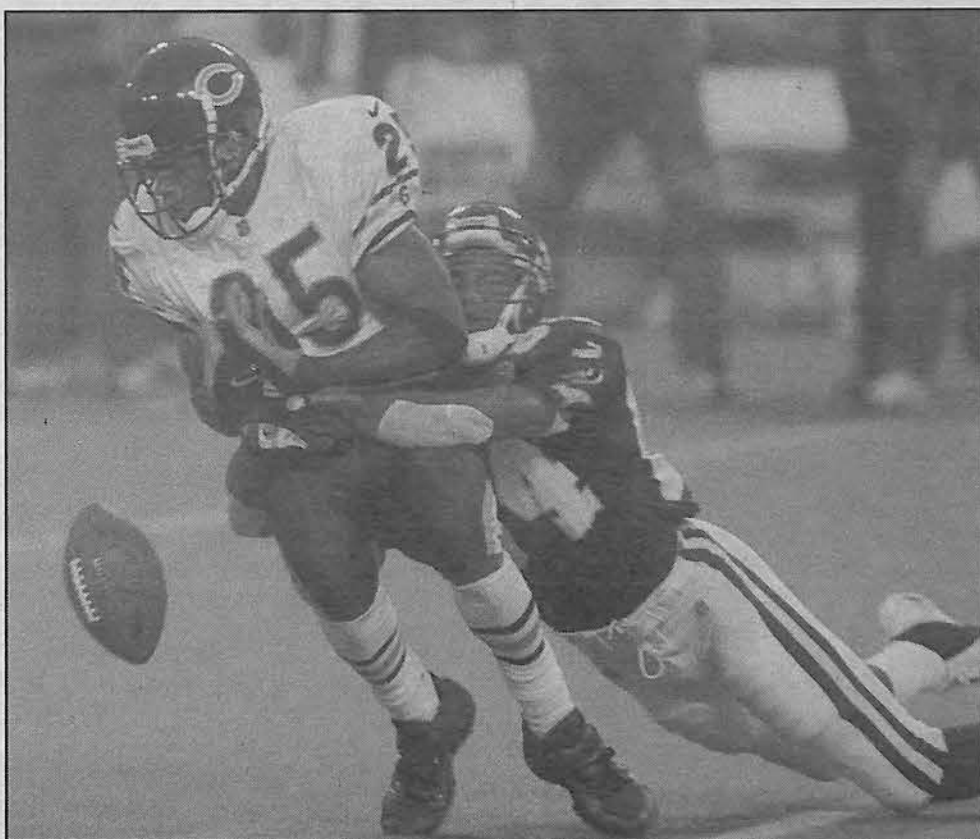


Photo by Andy King

Minnesota receiver Randy Moss reverses roles to prevent an interception by cornerback Thomas Smith in the Bears' 30-27 loss Sunday to the Vikings.

Week 1 Results

Week 2 Schedule

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago Bears.....	7	6	7	7	27
Minnesota Vikings.....	6	3	7	14	30
Vikings, 1, 10:16, Anderson 35-yard field goal (8-54, 4:44) 0-3					
Bears, 1, 3:58, Allred 18-yard pass from McNown (Edinger kick) (11-78, 6:18) 7-3					
Vikings, 1, 1:16, Anderson 38-yard field goal (5-38, 2:42) 7-6					
Bears, 2, 5:19, Edinger 29-yard field goal (7-45, 3:38) 10-6					
Vikings, 2, 1:51, Anderson 45-yard field goal (7-31, 3:28) 10-9					
Bears, 2, 0:16, Edinger 49-yard field goal (12-36, 1:35) 13-9					
Bears, 3, 10:10, Robinson 48-yard pass from McNown (Edinger kick) (8-74, 4:50) 20-9					
Vikings, 3, 5:24, Culpepper 1-yard run (Anderson kick) (9-72, 4:46) 20-16					
Vikings, 4, 10:59, Culpepper 7-yard run (Anderson kick) (6-93, 3:15) 20-23					
Vikings, 4, 4:35, Culpepper 4-yard run (Anderson kick) (7-81, 2:30) 20-30					
Bears, 4, 1:17, McNown 8-yard run (Edinger kick) (10-75, 3:18) 27-30					
Paid attendance: 64,104; time: 3:08					

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

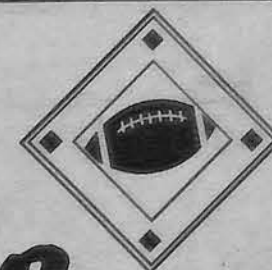
	Bears	Vikings
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	23	17
By Rushing	10	11
By Passing	13	5
By Penalty	0	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	9-15-60%	6-13-46%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0-0%	0-0-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	425	374
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	68	54
Average gain per offensive play	6.3	6.9
NET YARDS RUSHING	153	186
Total Rushing Plays	25	30
Average gain per rushing play	6.1	6.2
Tackles for a loss - number and yards	2-7	3-5
NET YARDS PASSING	272	188
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	2-18	1-2
Gross yards passing	290	190
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	41-27-0	23-13-1
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	6.3	7.8
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	6-1-0	7-2-0
PUNTS Number and Average	4-31.3	2-39
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
Net punting average	31.3	33
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	14	0
No. and Yards Punt Returns	1-12	0-0
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	7-175	5-124
No. and Yards Interception Returns	1-2	0-0
PENALTIES Number and Yards	5-45	4-20
FUMBLES Number and Lost	2-1	2-0
TOUCHDOWNS	3	3
Rushing	1	3
Passing	2	0
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	3-3	3-3
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	2-2	3-3
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	27	30
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:34	26:59

CHICAGO BEARS

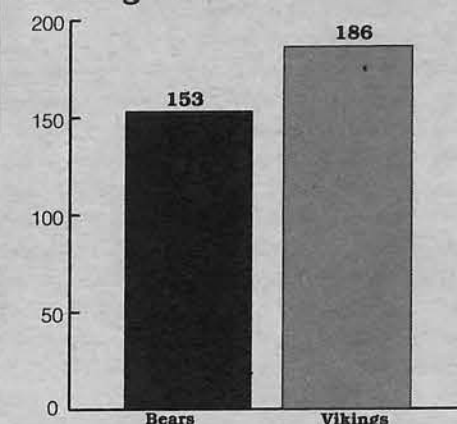
			Net		Long		
RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain	TD		
McNown	10	87	8.7	14	1		
Allen	9	60	6.7	11	0		
Enis	4	11	2.8	6	0		
Engram	1	1	1.0	1	0		
Booker	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0		
PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TKD/Yd.	TD	LG	Had Int.
McNown	41	27	290	2/18	2	48	0
PASS RECEIVING			No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Engram			8	61	7.6	25	0
Robinson			7	86	12.3	48	1
Booker			6	59	9.8	12	0
Allred			2	36	18.0	18	1
Kennison			2	16	8.0	9	0
Allen			1	17	17.0	17	0
Enis			1	15	15.0	15	0
INTERCEPTIONS				No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Azumah				1	2	2	0
PUNTING			No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20 LG
Bartholomew			4	125	31.3	0	3 36



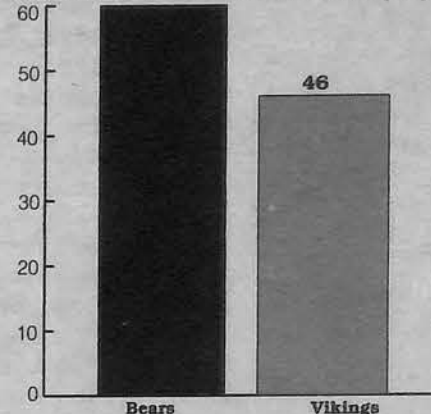
GAME STATISTICS



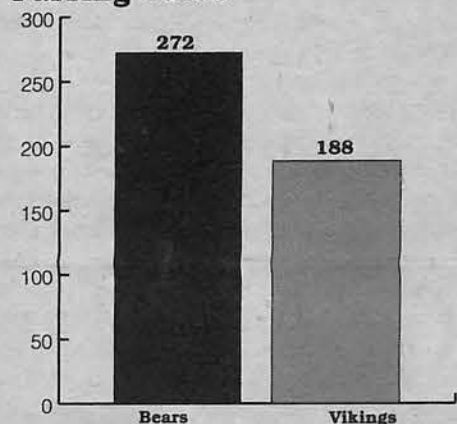
Rushing Yards



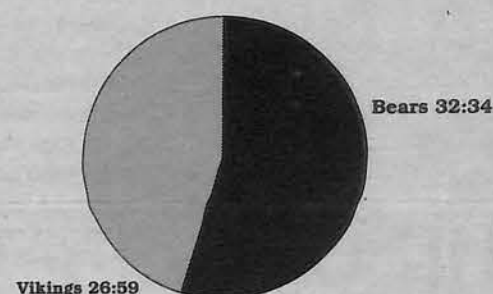
Third Down Conversions (%)



Passing Yards



Time of Possession



PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Milburn	1	0	12	12	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Milburn	7	0	175	34	0

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Smith	14	109	7.8	59	0
Culpepper	13	73	5.6	24	3
Kleinsasser	2	5	2.5	3	0
Williams	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0

	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TKD/Yd.	TD	LG	Had Int.
PASSING							
Culpepper	23	13	190	1/2	0	66	1

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING					
Moss	4	89	22.3	66	0
Kleinsasser	2	32	16.0	21	0
Davis	2	31	15.5	22	0
Carter	2	26	13.0	17	0
Smith	2	3	1.5	4	0
Jordan	1	9	9.0	9	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
None				

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Berger	2	78	39.0	0	1	52

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Palmer	0	4	0	0	0

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS					
Carter	5	0	124	38	0

CHICAGO BEARS

Unofficial

	T	Asst.	Sack	Yrds.	Int.	PD	FF	FR
Holdman	6	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Parrish	6	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Wells	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Minter	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
Daniels	3	0	1.0	2.0	0	0	0	0
Smith	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	2	0	0
Harris	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Robinson	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Brown	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Azumah	1	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	1	0
Colvin	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Samuel	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Urlacher	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Flanigan	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Matthews	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Unofficial

	T	Asst.	Sack	Yrds.	Int.	PD	FF	FR
McDaniel	12	1	1.0	9.0	0	0	1	0
Wong	7	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Dishman	6	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Griffith	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1
Burrough	3	1	1.0	9.0	0	0	0	0
Tate	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Thomas	3	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
Sawyer	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Rudd	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Paup	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Williams	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Thibodeaux	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Wright	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0



Bears let Vikings up off the canvas

DOUG BUFFONE



After the Bears took a 20-9 lead in the third quarter of Sunday's game in Minnesota, that's when their defense should have stepped up and put the Vikings away. Instead, they allowed touchdown drives of 72, 93 and 81 yards and the game slipped away.

When you're up 20-9, you might give up one touchdown drive, but three? When you have a team pinned at its own 7-yard line, that's when you put a team away. You don't let them get up off the canvas and start throwing punches of their own.

The bottom line is that the Vikings made the big plays and the Bears didn't. Randy Moss's

66-yard reception and Robert Smith's 59-yard run set up touchdowns and went unmatched by the Bears. Big plays like that have been hurting the Bears the past couple years.

My biggest concern entering the game was Daunte Culpepper's ability to run with the football. Cade McNown ran the ball too, but Culpepper rushed for three touchdowns and was virtually impossible to bring down. The Bears had a strong pass rush early, but then he just ran for a ton of crucial first downs.

The Bears made a handful of major mistakes that cost them this victory. The first one that comes to mind is Blake Brockermeyer's 15-yard penalty. That cost the Bears 29 yards and a shot at at least a game-tying field goal.

As far as the running game, it looks like the Bears are leaning more towards James Allen. He rushed for 60 yards on nine carries while Curtis Enis only had four rushing attempts for 11 yards. Even though the offense is pass-oriented, the Bears still have to be able to run to succeed.

McNown's effort was a blood and guts performance. He ran 10 times for 87 yards, but you cannot play that way for 16 games. Coordinator Gary Crowton really took advantage of the quarterback draw, but the kid took



Photo by Andy King

Marcus Robinson leaves Vikings linebacker Kailee Wong in his wake on a 48-yard TD reception Sunday.

a lot of nasty shots. He's got to start finding his receivers. He was a bit erratic throwing the football against the Vikings.

There were several opportunities the Bears failed to cash in. On a third-and-one play, McNown set up in the shotgun and missed a wide open Macey Brooks. One interception the

Trivia Trove



Who led the 1985 Super Bowl champion Bears in receptions?

(Answer on page 19)

Bears got that deflected into the hands of Jerry Azumah was a gift. Thomas Smith got his hands on a couple of passes he could have caught.

There was a lot of yardage generated by both sides. But the Bears started making little mistakes and didn't put the Vikings away when they were down. I think the most important thing was that the defense didn't step up when it needed to. Culpepper is a heck of an athlete, but those are plays the Bears must make in the future.

The Bears really let this one slip away. They played outstanding in the first half and really had the Vikings where they wanted them. They played a cover-two against Moss and Cris Carter and weren't letting the two Vikings stars beat them. Unfortunately, those two big plays and the three long drives did them in.

Now it's time to regroup against a very tough Tampa Bay Buccaneers squad in Florida. Falling to 0-2 against NFC Central opponents will be a fairly big hole for the Bears to crawl out of.

Doug Buffone hosts the Doug Buffone Sports Magazine Sunday mornings on Fox Sports Chicago.

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Something Special

Robinson's size and speed a rare combination

BOB LeGERE


Using three different quarterbacks with a total of one NFL start among them last season, the Bears accumulated 4,136 passing yards, the most in team history. They managed 15 pass plays of more than 35 yards, and only four of those 15 big plays did not have Marcus Robinson on the receiving end.

Despite adjusting to six quarterback changes and not starting the first five games, Robinson piled up 1,400 receiving yards, the most in Bears history. He averaged 16.7 yards on 84 catches, the third most in 80 years of Bears football.

"The thing that he does that is so impressive, is when you throw that deep ball he goes up and gets it," Crowton said. "And then the defense plays him soft and he's really good underneath, too, in front of it. Just that size and speed and ability to jump up and get the ball is very impressive."

At 6-foot-3 and 215 pounds, Robinson has always had the size. And he was known a lot more for his speed at the University of South Carolina than he was for his football exploits. Robinson caught only 37 passes in his collegiate career, but he was an All-America sprinter who set the school indoor record with a 21.14 200 meters and finished second in the SEC outdoor championships at 100 and 200 meters.

The Bears gambled a fourth-round pick on Robinson back in 1997, but he spent that season on injured reserve with a thumb injury. Dave Wannstedt's staff never had enough confidence in Robinson to extend him more than a cameo role in their offense, and he caught just four passes in 1998.

But it didn't take long for Jauron's crew to realize they had something special in Robinson, even though he started last season

playing behind established veterans Bobby Engram and Curtis Conway.

"With Marcus we were able to find his strengths out early because it was just staring you in the face," wide receivers coach Mike Borich said. "It was vertical, it was fast, it was down the field."

That combination made for instant success once Robinson was promoted to the starting lineup after Conway was sidelined with a sprained right ankle. In four of his first six starts, Robinson had more than 135 yards in receptions. In seven of the Bears' last 12 games, Robinson had at least six receptions.

While Robinson wants the ball as often as he can get it, he isn't ready to call himself a leader after just one phenomenal season.

"No, I don't look at myself as a leader," he said. "I'm just one of 11. I've got to go out and do my job the same as they do. I hope they just look at what I do and just go off that. But I'm not the verbal-type guy. I just go out and work hard and hopefully get people to follow me."

Whether the quarterback last season was Shane Matthews, Cade McNown or Jim Miller, his eyes followed Robinson's routes. With height, weight and jumping advantages over almost every defensive back in the NFL and a new-found ability to adjust quickly to the deep ball, Robinson became a go-to guy regardless of the quarterback.

"With Marcus, covered or not, the ball's going to go out there," Jauron said. "Marcus has shown that he'll go up and catch the ball over people, around people, and he'll find a way to get open."

If he isn't open right away, Bears quarterbacks don't mind waiting. Robinson has proven that he's worth the wait.

"With Marcus, the quarterback may stay on him a little bit longer," Crowton said. "That will continue until somebody else establishes themselves to be as skilled in those areas as Marcus."



Photo by Steve Woltmann

Marcus Robinson averaged 108 yards receiving in 11 starts in 1999 and finished the season with 9 TDs.

"It's tough to be throwing into double-coverage," quarterback Cade McNown said, "although sometimes you want to because you know he can still go up and get it."

While quarterbacks will stay with Robinson as their primary target longer than most other receivers, it usually doesn't take him a great deal of time to free himself.

"He's one of those guys that's able to get a lot of separation from the defense, whether he's sitting it down or taking it and going deep," McNown said. "He tends to get separation because of the caliber of athlete he is, so timing isn't as important. He's a tremendous player. Anytime you can have that weapon on the field it's going to make you a better team."

Robinson's presence and the attention he demands from the defense, makes every other member of the offense more effective, from running backs to fellow receivers.

Borich said it best: "I don't think you can find another Marcus."

Bob LeGere covers the Bears for the Daily Herald.

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VIEWPOINT

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Trade for Hicks

I was pleased to discover in a recent issue of the Chicago Bear Report, that the Bears have talked to the Washington Redskins about the 'Skins abundance of running backs.'

I think the Bears should trade for RB Skip Hicks. He has the speed to go outside of the tackles and also can break the long run. He also has the size to go up the middle. Everyone knows that Curtis Enis has not had a great camp, and even when he was healthy, he wasn't known for breaking off the long run.

Add to the fact that Enis is in the last year of his contract, and I think Da Bears should strike soon and trade for Hicks before someone else does.

The Redskins need an offensive lineman (which the Bears have plenty of) and they also could use a receiver, another area of strength for the Bears.

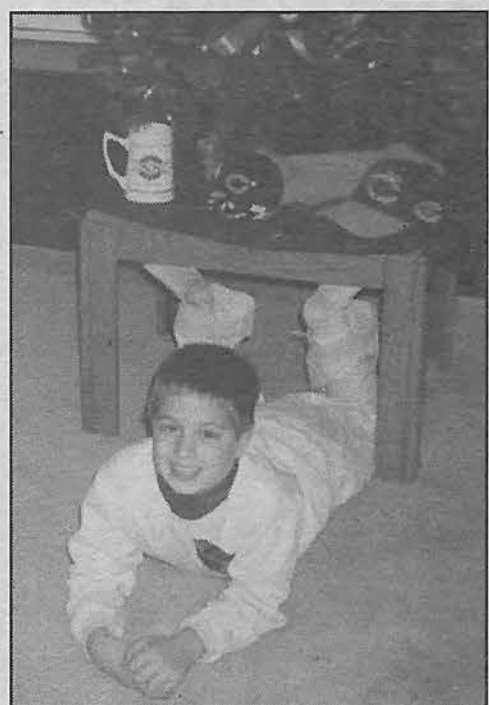
It is critical for the Bears to establish a reliable running game to take the pressure off Cade McNown. I think Skip Hicks could provide that.

Mike Loss
College Park, Maryland

A pathetic performance

We all know it was just an exhibition game against the Titans, but the Bears' performance was pathetic at best. I cannot think of any other word to describe it. No pass rush, no tackling,

Fan Foto



Despite living in Vikings country, Nicholas Laco of Lakeville, Minn., is a diehard Bears fan like his dad.

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passing game pedestrian at best, and only some bright spots in the running game. Curtis Enis had a carry for 16 yards and he just might be the RB we need. But there's still no punch inside the red zone.

Like I said at the beginning of camp, I was going to be far more critical of the coaching staff this year. Everyone is saying that the Bears have far more talent on this team than they have had in a decade. So if the team isn't winning it is the coaching staff. If it isn't the coaching staff it is the talent, then it is Mr. Hatley's fault for not bring in the talent that is needed.

Bill Ethington
Clearwater, Florida

Enis mediocre at best

My opinion is that it would behoove the Bears to have an ophthalmologist examine Curtis Enis; it appears obvious to me that he lacks peripheral vision, and combined with his additional weight, he has absolutely no moves. He is nothing more than a mediocre back. Coaches, please give James Allen or Marlon Barnes a chance.

An additional observation is that it could possibly be that despite the return of the entire offensive line, which ought to be a plus, they must not have the ability to block well. Togetherness doesn't necessarily produce effectiveness.

A few better offensive linemen could cer-

tainly give Enis and other more running room and be worthy of consideration.

And by the way, what happened to Phillip Daniels?

Leonard C. Arnold
Chicago, Illinois

Bates has star potential

I think if the Bears cut D'Wayne Bates, their third round pick of a year ago, it would be a major travesty. I think Bates can be a major superstar, and I think he can play better than Bobby Engram in time. If I had to make the decision on six wide receivers, I'd choose Marcus Robinson, Bobby Engram, Dez White, Marty Booker, Bates and Eddie Kennison.

I also wouldn't be surprised if Khari Samuel replaces Barry Minter in the middle in the near

future. Samuel is faster than Minter and he too has all the makings of a star.

Lastly, I think Roosevelt Colvin should be starting at defensive end for the Bears. He seems to be a great pass rusher. So what if he is a little on the small side. Hugh Douglass is one of the best pass rushers in the game, and he is starting for his team.

Daniel George
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Likes paper's new look

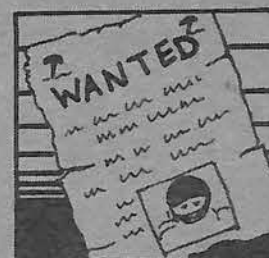
Just wanted to drop a note saying I really like the "new look" Bear Report! I like the shorter length of the paper, and the new font makes the paper a lot easier and fun to read. The new columnists are great! I'm reading articles that I wouldn't find in the Chicago Tribune or Sun-Times. Now the Bear Report would become my all time favorite periodical if we only had some more color photos!

Jason Yates
Caledonia, Illinois

Trivia Trove answer



Hall of Fame runner Walter Payton led the 1985 Bears with 49 receptions.
(From page 17)



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Revolving door still spinning

Wooden out of starting lineup but could return

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

When Shawn Wooden left the Miami Dolphins to sign with the Bears as a free agent this offseason, he probably thought his days shuffling in and out of the starting lineup were over.

He was wrong.

In the second shakeup in as many weeks, Wooden was demoted off the first-team defense for last Sunday's regular-season opener at Minnesota. Rookie Mike Brown was slated to start ahead of Wooden at free safety with Tony Parrish rejoining the No. 1 unit at strong safety. In the preseason finale, Wooden started at strong safety with Brown at free safety.

Last season the Dolphins were 7-1 before Jimmy Johnson started rotating Wooden and Calvin Jackson in and out of the starting lineup. Miami then lost four of its next five games.

"I've been in that situation before, and it really hurts the secondary," said Wooden, who had been the starter since the first day of training camp. "You need guys in there that you're continuously with that you can depend on, that you know how they're going to play and how they're not going to play."

"It's not fair to everybody else in the secondary if you keep rotating in and out. It's real hard to develop that continuity."

Parrish's demotion, which resulted from inconsistency and missed tackles, lasted only one game.

"We felt we needed his athletic ability in the

secondary," said Bears coach Dick Jauron. "He's faster than any of our safeties and he's bigger and he's a tough guy."

"We're hoping with the week down, he'll redouble his efforts to stay involved mentally at all times in the game and play up to his physical abilities."

While Wooden is convinced that a revolving door in the secondary is a bad idea, Jauron will continue to make changes when necessary.

"I don't believe you have to stick with it," Jauron said. "I think the guys that are playing the best, you put them in the lineup. If guys aren't holding up their end of the bargain, you have to get them out of the lineup. There could be changes."

Rough road: Playing at Minnesota and

Tampa Bay, the Bears open the season with two road games against division opponents for the first time since 1964. That's part of a season-opening stretch during which Chicago plays five of six games against NFC Central rivals.

"These first five or six games are big for us," said right tackle James "Big Cat" Williams. "It's going to be very important for us to get started fast. We're going to have to be in every game, stay in every game, basically win every game in the first part of the season. That will tell a lot as far as how our season will go."

Williams is the only current member of the Bears to play for a Chicago team that had a winning record in its division. That last happened in 1991 when Williams was a rookie and the Bears went 7-1 against NFC Central opponents.

Motor mouths: Not only do the Bears face two of the league's top defensive linemen in Minnesota's John Randle and Tampa Bay's Warren Sapp the first two weeks of the season, but the two Pro Bowlers are probably also among the most entertaining trash-talkers on the planet.

Asked to make a comparison, Big Cat revealed that Sapp is more creative even if Randle is more constant. "Randle talks more, but Sapp's better at it," Williams said.

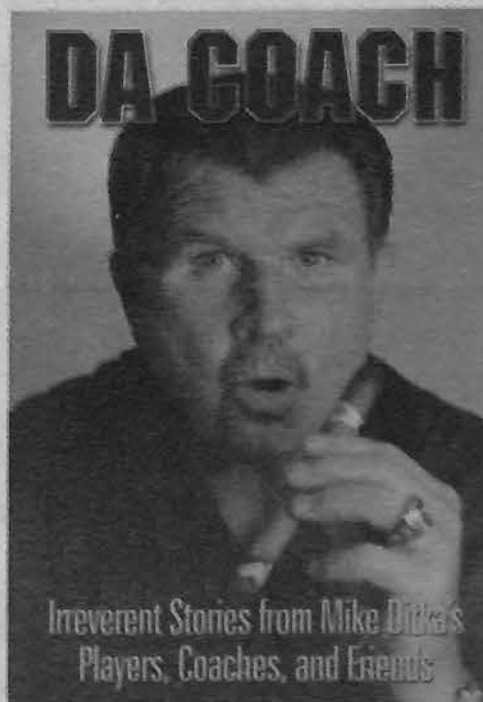
Practice squad: Three of the five players signed to the Bears practice squad had been cut by the team a week earlier: C Brad Williams, CB Todd McMillon and DE Jerome King. The two other players were cut by the Dolphins: RB Brian Edwards and TE Frank Leatherwood.

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--Mike North



"Ditka came into the locker room and started pounding on an equipment locker. All of a sudden, he looked up at the trainer and said, 'I think I broke my hand.' He had. We didn't know whether to laugh or cry."--Jim McMahon



Photo by Steve Woltmann

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